

To: Albright, David[Albright.David@epa.gov]
Cc: Dermer, Michele[Dermer.Michele@epa.gov]
From: Amato, Paul
Sent: Fri 4/24/2015 4:48:55 PM
Subject: Please Verify UIC Hot Issues for Administrator Visit

Hi David,

I'm working on updating the Hot Issues list for the Administrator's 5/13-14 visit to the Bay Area. Jane asked me to include language in the UIC piece about political attention to the matter. I drew from the presentation you and Michele gave last week and added a couple sentences. Please confirm this looks ok. Jane also took out the sentence in the version from the Administrator's previous visit about EPA directing the State to submit a Program Revision Plan by 2/6/15. I need to have this done by 5/6.

Thanks,

Paul

California UIC Program Review: In 2011 EPA identified major deficiencies in the state's underground injection control program for oil and gas-related (Class II) wells and in 2012 found improper aquifer exemptions and improperly permitted injection wells that may have impacted potential drinking water sources. EPA issued a letter to the state on March 9, 2015 concurring on key aspects of the state's plan and setting out a schedule of required activities and deliverables, with target milestones and compliance deadlines to ensure that the state continues to make progress towards full compliance with the SDWA, and meets a February 15, 2017 compliance deadline for Class II wells currently injecting into non-exempt aquifers. EPA and the State continue to pursue immediate action to shut down any injection wells that are found to be in close proximity to current drinking water supply wells.

DOGGR and the UIC situation have been the subject of recent CA State Legislature oversight hearings. Six CA state senators have written to the governor requesting steps be taken to stop illegal injection into non-exempt aquifers and 4 members of the US House of Representatives have written to DOGGR requesting that all wells under investigation be shut down immediately.

Paul F. Amato

Management & Program Analyst

U.S. EPA, Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street, WTR-1

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

t:(415) 972-3847

f:(415) 947-8026

e:amato.paul@epa.gov